



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

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SCAM ALERT

**Contra Costa District Attorney Warns of Phone Scammers
Posing as Internal Revenue Service Agents**

MARTINEZ, CA – Mark A. Peterson, District Attorney of Contra Costa County, is warning residents to beware of a widespread telephone scam targeting taxpayers including seniors and immigrants.

Fake IRS agents are calling taxpayers claiming they owe taxes and must make a payment immediately or risk going to jail, being deported, or losing their business or driver's license. These fake IRS agents demand payment using a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. These calls often appear legitimate because the fake IRS agents are able to mask their Caller ID to make it look like the call is coming from the IRS. Sometimes these fake agents even know the last four digits of a social security number or other personal information. These fake IRS agents will also call the person multiple times becoming more aggressive and putting pressure on the worried taxpayer.

Here's how to help protect yourself:

- Real IRS agents usually contact individuals by mail first. They NEVER demand payment by debit card, wire transfer or credit card.
- Never give a caller any personal or financial information.
- The IRS will never contact someone through email, text messages or social media. The IRS will never ask for a bank PIN, password, or other information.
- Always check with a loved one or trusted advisor before sending money.
- If you receive such a call, hang up and report the crime via the new federal reporting system at http://www.treasury.gov/tigta/contact_report_scam.shtml